THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) The demand and supply position of steel in the country category-wise in the current year is as follows:—

(in Million tonnes)

Year	Assessed Demand	Estimated Availability from indigenous sources
1988--89		
Flat Products . .	5.8	5.1
Non-Flat products .	7.9	7.3
Others	0.2	0.1
	13.9	12.5

(b) The gap is met to the extent possible through imports, subject to avilability of Foreign Exchange from time to time.

Representation from the Indian Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers

451. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Indian Federation of Small & Medium Newspapers with regard to certain concessions needed for their growth;

(b) if so, details of the representation; and

(c) action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) The Indian Federation of Small & Medium Newspapers had sent a copy of the rsolution adopted in Dec., 1988 in the All India Convention of Editors and Annual General Meeting of the Federation.

(b) A statement is enclosed (*See* below)

(c) The Government is always alive to the problems of small and medium newspapers. It has been the endeavour of the Government to help in the growth of small and medium newspapers and provide them with the necessary supporting services consistent with the Government's deep commitment to the freedom of the Press, through the various organs of the Government within financial and administrative constraints. Several concessions and facilities have been extended specifically to the small and medium newspapers from time to time. The Committee on Long Term Newsprint Allocation Policy headed by Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Chairman, Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices and the Committee constituted to suggest measures to rationalise the Advertisement Policy of the Goevrnment under the Chairmanship of Shri Ramamohan Rao, Principal Information Officer, have looked into, *inter alia* the problems of small and medium newspapers in respect of matters relating to newsprint and advertisement respectively. Their recommendations are under consideration. Various other problems of small and medium newspapers are being looked into by an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Suman Dubey, Adviser, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The Press and Registration of Books (Amendment) Bill, 1988 introduced in the Parliament on 4-12-1988 is, *inter alia*, intended to facilitate a faster and balanced growth of newspapers. The views that may be expressed during the debate on the Bill will receive Government's due consideration. Press bodies are

included in the various committees on the basis of their representational character and standing and the objectives of the Committee.

Statement

List of demands contained in the resolution adopted at the All India Convention of Editors organised by the Indian Federation of Small & Medium Newspapers (IFSMN) on 12-12-1988.

1. Measures be taken to enable the Press Information Bureau (PIB) to supply information photographs, obonoid blocks at the quickest possible time on the same day or at worst the next day of the event.

2. The services of PIB be energised and improved by adopting modern communication technologies, including satellite transmission, for quicker service to newspapers at provincial headquarters and provincial centres;

3. Small and medium press be given a better share in the total revenue of government advertisements particularly like that of family planning and child welfare to enable it to exist with purpose and dignity and give mileage to the Government. A method be devised by which at least the best circulated newspapers in district receive the UPSC advertisements and other district dailies receive in rotation motivational advertisements on the basis of the recommenation from the District Magistrate and his report on the appearance of daily newspapers in news stands. Some procedure is recommended for weeklies.

4. Editors of all district and local dailies and weeklies be extended 50 per cent concession on travel by rail within and outside the State on professional work and free travel on the State Roadways while on active professional duty.

5. Functions of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) be decentralised on zonal or State basis for clearance of titles and sanction of newsprint supply within a specified period on the principle of 'single-window-service'. An officer of State Transport Corporation and Directorate of Advertisements and Visual Publicity be posted at the RNI premises.

6. The postal and telecommunication rates at the 1980 level be restored for the small and medium press.

7. Uniform accreditation rules as per the Central Press Accreditation Rules be extended in all the states and Union Territories.

8. Newsprint, imported and indigenous, be made available at district headquarters.

9. Press and Registration of Books (Amendment) Bill already before the Parliament be withdrawn or referred to Select Committee or circulated among various media organisations, including IFSMN.

10. All ambiguities in the Bill before the Parliament or in any future Bill be removed. All titles be separte identified category-wise for the purpose of giving power to RNI to defreeze those titles which are deed.

11. RNI be decentralised by the Amendment Bill and be headed by a retired Judge of the Supreme Court at the centre and by a retired Judge of the High Court in States, to restore the confidence of the Press in RNI and for speedy implementation of the provisions of the Act.

12. A distinct pattern of teleprinter facilities be extended to the Development News Service at subsidised rates.

13. Government allot a house or land to Development News Service.

14. The Development News Service be invited by the PIB and the PM's Office to depute its representative in all journalist groups for plant visits or visits abroad of the PM or the President.

15. The Government give grant-in-aid for the setting up of the national news network for the small and medium press with suitable accreditation to its correspondence at the centre and states.

16. Only imported newsprint, preferably glazed, be made available to districts and taluq press to enable local, district and provincial press present an acceptable countenance of their newspapers.

17. The maximum limit of the imported newsprint at 300 tons per annum be retained with the existing rebate on duty or the best Indian newsprint be alloted to the small Press at international price.

18. The requirements of the district and provincial press be met from the provincial and district headquarters without causing financial strain of the users.

19. The Kelkar Committee Report be rejected as it is based on guess work rather than actualities and realities and a fresh committee on which IFSMN is represented be set up to go into specific requirements of the district and provincial press.

20. Representatives of IFSMN be coopted on the existing commitees and the expert pannel in the Ministry of I&B and IFSMN be invited to nominate its representatives on the committees to be formed in future.

21. Representatives of IFSMN be inducted in the Press Accreditation Committee, Newsprint Advisory Committee, Purchase Committee, Radio & Doordarshan Programmes Committees.

Shortage of Dwelling Units

452. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of dwelling units increased from about 23 million in 1981 to the estimated about 28 million units in 1988 in spite of the various Government schemes; and

(b) if so, what extra schemes Government propose to take to wipe out the shortage and arrears in the face of the above trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The estimation of housing needs takes into consideration the factors of congestion, overcrowding, No. of married couple requiring separate rooms and the unserviceable Kutcha houses. Keeping in view these factors and based on the 1981 census the NBO has estimated the shortage of dwelling units in the country in 1981 to be 23.3 million and projected the likely shortage in 1988 to be 28.5 million.

(b) Housing is a State subject and all social housing schemes are implemented by the State Govts./U.T. Admns. according to their local requirements and plan priorities.. Central financial assistance is provided to the State Govts. and U. T. Admns. in the shape of block loans and grants without being tied to particular head of development.

However, several steps have been taken at the National level to meet the demand for housing. Some of them are as follows:—

(i) The Public Sector outlay for housing has been raised from Rs. 1490.87 crores in the Sixth Five Year Plan to Rs. 2458.21 crores in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The National Housing Policy (NHP) has been appoved by the Rajya Sabha..